

**Amendments to the Claims:**

A detailed listing of all the claims that are, or were, in the application is presented below. Current amendments to the claims, including additions being shown by underlining and deletions being shown by strikethrough or double brackets, are expressed in the listing.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A composite wear layer comprising:
  - a) a polyethylene terephthalate wear layer,[[; and]]
  - b) an organic/inorganic top coat layer formed from a top coat formulation comprising a coupling agent having an organic polymerizable moiety and an inorganic polymerizable moiety, and
  - c) an adhesion promoter between the wear layer and the top coat layer.

2. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the wear layer is between about 1 and about 20 mils.

3. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the top coat layer is between about 2 microns and about 13 microns.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the top coat layer further comprises hard particles.

6. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 5, wherein the hard particles are nanoparticles.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

8. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the wear layer comprises a polyethylene terephthalate copolymer.

9. (Currently Amended) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the organic/inorganic top coat was formed from a top coat formulation comprising ~~comprises~~ a colloidal inorganic sol.

Claims 10 and 11 (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The composite wear layer of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 1, wherein the organic polymerizable moiety is selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylate, epoxy, isocyanate, vinyl ether, allyl, vinyl, and acetylenic.

13. (Currently Amended) The composite wear layer of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 1, wherein the inorganic polymerizable moiety is selected from the group consisting of hydrolyzable Al, Zr, Si, Ti or B alkoxides and mixtures thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) The composite wear layer of claim ~~[[10]]~~ 1, wherein the organic/inorganic top coat composition was formed from a top coat formulation further comprising ~~comprises~~ an organic polymerizable monomer or oligomer.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A composite wear layer ~~of claim 1, wherein the comprising:~~

- a) a polyethylene terephthalate wear layer;
- b) an organic/inorganic top coat ~~composition further comprises~~ layer  
formed from a top coat formulation comprising (1) a coupling agent  
having an organic polymerizable moiety and an inorganic  
polymerizable moiety, and (2) an inorganic polymerizable monomer;  
and
- c) an adhesion promoter between the wear layer and the top coat layer.

16. (Currently Amended) The composite wear layer of claim [[10]] 1, wherein the organic/inorganic top coat composition was formed from a top coat formulation further comprising ~~comprises~~ 1) an organic polymerizable monomer or oligomer, and 2) an inorganic polymerizable monomer.

17. (Currently Amended) The composite wear layer of claim [[11]] 14, wherein the coupling agent comprises a reactive organic moiety that reacts with the organic polymerizable monomer, but is not capable of self polymerization.

18. (Currently Amended) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the organic/inorganic top coat [[is]] has been cured by heat, UV radiation, electron beam radiation or combinations thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) A surface covering ~~or surface covering component~~ comprising the composite wear layer of claim 1 and a substrate.

20. (Currently Amended) The surface covering ~~or surface covering component~~ of claim 19, wherein the surface covering is a floor covering ~~or floor covering component~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The surface covering ~~or surface covering component~~ of claim 20, wherein the floor covering is a resilient tile.

22. (Currently Amended) The surface covering ~~or surface covering component~~ of claim 20, wherein the floor covering is a resilient sheet product.

23. (Currently Amended) The surface covering ~~or surface covering component~~ of claim 22, wherein the resilient sheet product comprises a foam or foamable layer.

Claims 24 and 25 (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) The surface covering ~~or surface covering component~~ of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 20, wherein the surface covering further comprises a flooring substrate and a second ~~[[the]]~~ adhesion promoter ~~[[is]]~~ between the wear layer and the flooring substrate.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) The surface covering ~~or surface covering component~~ of claim ~~[[27]]~~ 26, wherein the adhesion promoter ~~on one side of the PET~~ between the wear layer and the top coat layer is different from the adhesion promoter ~~on the other side~~ between the wear layer and the flooring substrate.

29. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the glass transition temperature of the organic/inorganic top coat layer is above 25°C.

30. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the Mohs hardness of the top coat is greater than 1.5.

31. (Original) The floor covering of claim 20, wherein the final product exhibits gloss retention properties of greater than 90%.

32. (Original) The floor covering of claim 20, wherein the final product exhibits a light stability color change of less than 3 Delta b units.

33. (Currently Amended) A process of manufacturing a floor covering ~~or floor covering component~~, comprising:

- a) laminating a PET film to a flooring substrate,
- b) applying an adhesion promoter to the PET film before or after the PET film is laminated to the flooring substrate whereby the PET film is interposed between the adhesion promoter and the flooring substrate with the adhesion

promoter being exposed when the PET film is laminated to the flooring substrate and the adhesion promoter is applied to the PET film, [[and]]

[[b]] c) ~~applying, drying and curing~~ an organic/inorganic top coat formulation comprising a coupling agent having an organic polymerizable moiety and an inorganic polymerizable moiety to the exposed PET surface adhesion promoter, and

d) then curing the top coat formulation.

34. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Claim claim~~ claim 33, wherein the ~~PET film further comprises an adhesion promoter is applied to the PET film before the PET film is laminated to the flooring substrate.~~

Claim 35 (Canceled).

36. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~[[34]]~~ 33, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a second adhesion promoter is applied to at least one of the PET film between the wear layer and the flooring substrate before the PET film is laminated to a flooring substrate.

Claim 37 (Canceled).

38. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~[[37]]~~ 36, wherein the adhesion promoter on one side of the PET ~~wear layer~~ film is different from the adhesion promoter on the other side of the PET film.

39. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 33, wherein the PET film ~~wear layer~~ comprises a copolymer of polyethylene terephthalate.

40. (Currently Amended) A process of manufacturing a floor covering ~~or floor covering component~~, comprising:

a) ~~applying, drying and curing~~ an organic/inorganic top coat formulation comprising a coupling agent having an organic polymerizable moiety and an inorganic polymerizable moiety to a PET film to form a composite wear layer, and

b) laminating the composite ~~[[film]]~~ wear layer to a flooring substrate such that the PET film ~~surface~~ is overlying the flooring substrate~~[[,]]~~ and the organic/inorganic top coat is ~~[[on the]]~~ exposed ~~surface of~~ when the flooring ~~product when covering is~~ installed.

41. (Original) The process of claim 40, wherein the PET film further comprises an adhesion promoter.

42. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the top coat formulation is applied to the adhesion promoter ~~is between the wear layer and the top coat~~.

43. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the adhesion promoter is between the ~~wear layer~~ PET film and the flooring substrate when the composite film is laminated to the flooring substrate.

44. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 42, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a second adhesion promoter is between the PET film and the flooring substrate when the composite film is laminated to the flooring substrate.  
~~located on both sides of the PET film.~~

45. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~44~~, wherein the adhesion promoter ~~on one side of~~ comprising the PET ~~wear layer~~ film is different from the second adhesion promoter on the other side.

46. (Original) The process of claim 40, wherein the PET film comprises a copolymer of polyethylene terephthalate.

47. (Currently Amended) The surface covering ~~or surface covering component~~ of claim 19, wherein the PET wear layer ~~of Claim 1~~ comprises a copolymer of polyethylene terephthalate.

48. (New) The composite wear layer of claim 15, wherein the inorganic polymerizable monomer is a tetraalkylsiloxane.

49. (New) The surface covering of claim 19, wherein the top coat formulation further comprises an inorganic polymerizable monomer.

50. (New) The surface covering of claim 49, wherein the inorganic polymerizable monomer is a tetraalkylsiloxane.

51. (New) The floor covering of claim 20, wherein the top coat formulation further comprises an inorganic polymerizable monomer.

52. (New) The floor covering of claim 51, wherein the inorganic polymerizable monomer is a tetraalkylsiloxane.

53. (New) The process of manufacturing a floor covering of claim 33, wherein the top coat formulation further comprises an inorganic polymerizable monomer.

54. (New) The process of manufacturing a floor covering of claim 53, wherein the inorganic polymerizable monomer is a tetraalkylsiloxane.

55. (New) The process of manufacturing a floor covering of claim 40, wherein the top coat formulation further comprises an inorganic polymerizable monomer.

56. (New) The process of manufacturing a floor covering of claim 55, wherein the inorganic polymerizable monomer is a tetraalkylsiloxane.



**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figures 1 and 2, replace the original sheets including Figures 1 and 2. In Figure 1, previously omitted reference numeral 102 has been added. In Figures 1 and 2 the lead lines have been made more definite.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets

Two Annotated Sheets Showing Changes